

1826 are electrically coupled through shaft 1827 to the distal end 1812. Electrodes 1822 and 1824, which are shown as having the shape of a partial loop or prong, are electrically isolated by insulator 1828. Delivery of energy is equal to both electrodes such that an equal, bipolar effect occurs at the surgical site. Both electrodes extend from one side of aspiration aperture 1825 in shaft 1834 to a point across the aperture and return to the generator. One electrode serves as an active electrode and one electrode serves as a return electrode. It will be appreciated that either electrode may be an active or a return since the polarity of the power generator may be reversed. Because both electrodes are configured across the aspiration aperture 1825, clogging and blockage of the aperture is prevented or reduced.--

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-40 and add the following new claims:

41. A surgical instrument for treating tissue comprising an elongate probe member having proximal and distal extremities, the distal extremity having a distal surface and first and second spaced-apart electrodes protruding from the distal surface and adapted to engage the tissue, and first and second electrical leads carried by the elongate probe member and extending from the proximal extremity to the distal extremity, the first and second electrical leads being coupled respectively to the first and second electrodes for supplying electrical energy to the first and second electrodes, the first electrode being an active electrode and the second electrode being a return electrode.
42. The surgical instrument of Claim 41 wherein at least one of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface.
43. The surgical instrument of Claim 42 wherein each of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface.
44. The surgical instrument of Claim 42 wherein the at least one of the first and second electrodes has the shape of partial loop.
45. The surgical instrument of Claim 42 wherein the at least one of the first and second electrodes has the shape of prong.
46. The surgical instrument of Claim 42 wherein the distal face is provided with an aspiration aperture and the elongate probe member has a lumen extending from the proximal extremity to the aspiration aperture in the distal face, the portion of the at least one of the first

and second electrodes extending across the aspiration aperture.

47. The surgical instrument of Claim 46 wherein each of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface and extending across the aspiration aperture.

48. The surgical instrument of Claim 41 wherein the first and second electrodes extend parallel to each other.

49. The surgical instrument of Claim 41 wherein the first and second electrodes extend in the same plane.

50. The surgical instrument of Claim 41 wherein each of the first and second electrodes is cylindrical in shape.

51. A surgical instrument for treating tissue comprising an elongate probe member having proximal and distal extremities, the distal extremity having a distal surface and first and second spaced-apart electrodes protruding from the distal surface and adapted to engage the tissue, and first and second electrical leads carried by the elongate probe member and extending from the proximal extremity to the distal extremity, the first and second electrical leads being coupled respectively to the first and second electrodes for supplying electrical energy to the first and second electrodes, the first and second electrodes extending parallel to each other.

52. The surgical instrument of Claim 51 wherein at least one of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface.

53. The surgical instrument of Claim 52 wherein each of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface.

54. The surgical instrument of Claim 52 wherein the at least one of the first and second electrodes has the shape of partial loop.

55. The surgical instrument of Claim 52 wherein the at least one of the first and second electrodes has the shape of prong.

56. The surgical instrument of Claim 52 wherein the distal face is provided with an aspiration aperture and the elongate probe member has a lumen extending from the proximal extremity to the aspiration aperture in the distal face, the portion of the at least one of the first and second electrodes extending across the aspiration aperture.

57. The surgical instrument of Claim 56 wherein each of the first and second electrodes has a portion spaced outwardly from the distal surface and extending across the